

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 011528

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011528

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, AG

SUBJECT: RECENT STATEMENTS ON USE OF FORCE IN MIDDLE EAST

REF: (A) ALGIERS 116; (B) ALGIERS 124

1. IF BOUMEDIENE RAISES SUBJECT OF USE OF FORCE WITH
RESPECT TO OIL QUESTION, YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING
EXCERPTS FROM SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW WITH BILL MOYERS'
BROADCAST EVENING JANUARY 16 (FULL TEXT BY WIRELESS FILE):

BEGIN EXCERPTS:

QUOTE:

MOYERS:I NEED TO ASK YOU WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND
WHEN YOU GAVE THAT INTERVIEW TO BUSINESS WEEK AND TALKED
ABOUT THE POSSIBLE STRANGULATION OF THE WEST? WHAT WAS
GOING THROUGH YOUR MIND AT JUST THAT MINUTE?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WELL, FIRST OF ALL, THE SENTENCE
THAT HAS ATTRACTED SO MUCH ATTENTION IS TOO FREQUENTLY
TAKEN TOTALLY OUT OF CONTEXT, AND IT WAS PART OF A VERY
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PAGE 02 STATE 011528

LONG INTERVIEW IN WHICH I PUT FORWARD ESSENTIALLY THE

CONCEPTION THAT I HAVE DEVELOPED HERE; THAT IS TO SAY, OF

A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS. IN ADDITION, I MADE CLEAR THAT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC WARFARE, OR MILITARY ACTION, IS TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE SOLUTION OF OIL PRICES, RECYCLING PROBLEMS, ETC. THE CONTINGENCY, AND THE ONLY CONTINGENCY, TO WHICH I ADDRESSED MYSELF WAS AN ABSOLUTELY HYPOTHETICAL CASE IN WHICH THE ACTUAL STRANGULATION OF THE ENTIRE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD WAS BEING ATTEMPTED. IN OTHER WORDS, IN WHICH THE CONFRONTATION WAS STARTED BY THE PRODUCERS.

I HAVE SAID REPEATEDLY, AND I WANT TO SAY NOW, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH AN EVENT IS GOING TO HAPPEN. I WAS SPEAKING HYPOTHETICALLY ABOUT AN EXTREME SITUATION. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVOKED BY OTHER COUNTRIES.

I THINK IT IS SELF-EVIDENT THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT PERMIT ITSELF TO BE STRANGLER. BUT I ALSO DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL REALLY BE ATTEMPTED. AND THEREFORE WE WERE TALKING ABOUT A HYPOTHETICAL CASE THAT ALL OUR EFFORTS ARE ATTEMPTING TO AVOID, AND THAT WE ARE CONFIDENT WE CAN AVOID.

WE WERE NOT TALKING, AS IS SO LOOSELY SAID, ABOUT THE SEIZURE OF OIL FIELDS. THAT IS NOT OUR INTENTION. THAT IS NOT OUR POLICY.

....

I WAS ASTONISHED WHEN THIS WAS SEIZED UPON. WE WERE NOT THE ONES WHO SPREAD IT. I THINK THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE SPREAD THIS AROUND, FRANKLY, IN ORDER TO SOW SOME DISPUTE BETWEEN US AND THE OIL PRODUCERS.

OUR WHOLE POLICY TOWARDS THE PRODUCERS HAS BEEN BASED ON AN EFFORT OF ACHIEVING COOPERATION. WE HAVE SPENT TREMENDOUS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, PRECISELY TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONS. WE WERE TALKING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 011528

ABOUT A VERY EXTREME CASE, ABOUT WHICH ONLY THE MOST IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS AMONG PRODUCERS ARE EVEN SPEAKING, AND IT IS NOT OUR POLICY TO USE MILITARY FORCE TO SETTLE ANY OF THE ISSUES THAT WE ARE NOW TALKING ABOUT.

MOYERS: BUT NEITHER, IF I UNDERSTAND YOUR PHILOSOPHICAL VIEW OF DIPLOMACY, CAN A POWER EVER RULE OUT ANY

CONTINGENCY.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WELL, NO NATION CAN ANNOUNCE THAT IT WILL LET ITSELF BE STRANGLERED WITHOUT REACTING. AND I FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT IT IS THAT PEOPLE ARE OBJECTING TO. WE ARE SAYING THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT PERMIT ITSELF OR ITS ALLIES TO BE STRANGLERED.

SOMEBODY ELSE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE TO ATTEMPT THE STRANGULATION. IT ISN'T BEING ATTEMPTED NOW.

END QUOTE.

2. IN ADDITION, YOU MAY MAKE POINT THAT SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW WITH BUSINESS WEEK SOUGHT TO PUT INTO RESPONSIBLE CONTEXT AND PERSPECTIVE AN ISSUE ABOUT WHICH THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH LOOSE AND IRRESPONSIBLE SPECULATION AND TO MAKE CLEAR THAT U.S. IS CONSCIOUS OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORLD PEACE AND IS NOT GOING TO ACT RECKLESSLY OR IRRESPONSIBLY. KISSINGER

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